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the Martlet

Smashing racist scum for 50 years

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Community rallies against racist meeting

by Juliet Rice

We can't dismiss racists as "marginalized wingnuts" anymore.

That was Esquimalt-Metchosin MLA Moe Sihota's message at an anti-racism rally held outside of the Juan de Fuca public library branch on June 19.

Four hundred people turned up at rally to protest the Greater Victoria Library Board's decision to allow the Canadian Free Speech League (CFSL) to hold a meeting there. Their protest was a success—CFSL member Doug Christie agreed to cancel the Saturday portion of their two-day meeting at the request of Neil Williams, chairperson of the library board.

"There didn't seem to be any more of a point to be made," said Williams. While he did not ask Christie to cancel the meeting outright, Williams said he explained his concern to Christie over how the meeting would be received during the library's open hours on Saturday.

Williams said that Christie agreed to cancel the meeting on his own accord.

The library board's decision to allow the CFSL to use public space was met with outrage in Colwood and the Greater Victoria area. Over 50 businesses and individuals formed a coalition called Communities Against Hate (CAH) to petition the library to change its policy, which permits any public group to book the space.

The library board subscribes to the Statement of Intellectual Freedom, which allows groups like the CFSL to express themselves in the library, even if the views expressed are considered unorthodox.

"Libraries stand behind the Statement of Intellectual Freedom, and the Canadian Library Association (CLA) supports our decision," said Williams.

Two years ago that the CFSL held a meeting at the downtown branch at the public library, and the library board won an intellectual freedom award from the national library association for allowing that meeting to proceed.

Perhaps not coincidentally, the CLA held a conference in Victoria the same week the CFSL met in Juan de Fuca.

"It's not because we support racism," said Williams.

"Believe me, it's not an easy position to be in," he said.

While the rally was relatively peaceful, some protesters jeered at citizens attending the CFSL meeting and shoved them on their way to the library doors.

Western Communities RCMP confirmed they are laying assault charges against one man, who was intoxicated.

Witnesses say the man shoved a photographer.

While Staff Sergeant Dale Dichrow said the man's appearance at the rally was incidental, witness Miko Ross said the man, whose name has not been released, hid his face from cameras while being escorted to a police car and proclaimed he had made an "important decision" earlier that day.

Resistance to the library board's decision was strong. "The Canadian Library Association should pro-actively champion human rights legislation and combat the dissemination of discrimination," said Bill Fowler of the Victoria Labour Council.

Moe Sihota spoke against racists at the June 19 rally.

Martlet photo by Mary Vallis

see related story on page two

UBC joins CASA; president abstains

by Mary Vallis

Students attending UBC next year will be more than just members of the university's undergraduate Alma Mater Society (AMS)—they will also be members of CASA, Canada's national right-wing student organization.

According to Hoffman, the council's decision to join CASA—the CFS's newer, smaller rival—will only add to the division between the two national student organizations.

"The biggest problem with the Canadian student movement is that it's divided," said Hoffman, who hopes that the AMS will be able to persuade CASA to work in partnership with the CFS in the future. "The two organizations are openly hostile to each other and the press."

"The biggest problem with the Canadian student movement is that it's divided"

The UBC AMS's decision to join the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is a major shift for B.C.'s student movement, because UBC's undergraduate membership is the largest in the province.

The motion to join CASA, which required a two-thirds majority, passed after three hours of debate at the June 10 council meeting. While five board members voted in favour of remaining an autonomous student association, 16 AMS members voted in favour of the motion to join CASA.

But two council members abstained in the decision altogether—including AMS president Vivian Hoffman, who told *the Martlet* that personally, she would have opted to join CASA's rival, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

CASA was founded in 1992 and has been in direct competition for student membership with the CFS ever since. The CFS currently boasts a membership of student at approximately 60 schools, while 17 Canadian student associations are members of CASA, including B.C.'s Kwantlen College.

Ryan Marshall, coordinator of external affairs for the AMS, said UBC is overdue in joining a national organization. UBC's undergraduate council has been autonomous since they left CASA several years ago, after an internal dispute spurred the AMS to withdraw its membership.

"We've been sitting on the fence for years, and I felt it was time to get out there and work on national efforts," said Marshall.

While CASA is pleased to welcome another major Canadian university into its fold, the CFS isn't happy about UBC's move.

"We need a united student movement in Canada, and CASA spends more time criticizing the Canadian Federation of Students than anti-student policies developed by governments," said Maura Parte, B.C. Chair of the CFS. "It's unfortunate that the UBC Alma Mater Society would choose to join such an organization."

Marshall estimated that to join the CFS, it would cost the AMS nearly 12 times the estimated $25,000 the council will hand over to CASA.

But Parte said comparing the services offered by the two organizations is like comparing apples to oranges.

And the two national student organizations have different mandates, and different approaches to attracting membership.

While CASA requires a two-thirds vote from student board members, the CFS requires a student referendum on campus involving substantial research and preparation.

War against Costco still underway

by Darren Stewart

Lower Vancouver Island recently lost more of its precious and endangered Garry oak meadow ecosystem, this time to Costco, the multinational company that is building a 700 space parking lot and 135,000 square foot warehouse in the Langford area.

"The Costco situation is tragic," said Adolf Beska of the Conservation Data Centre. "The environmental concerns were completely overlooked. Costco has to designate a small fraction of the land as a park, but we don't even know how many trees they'll keep. Its a dismal outlook for the Garry oak."

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Protesters continue fighting big business

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The Garry oak has been the focus of much attention as an important and endangered part of our environment on lower Vancouver Island. Recent protests by environmental activists at the Costco development site and the Legislature have heightened the issue in the mainstream media.

Richard Hebda, coordinator restoration systems at UVic, has done extensive research into the history of the Garry oak.

"This is one of the smallest major ecosystems in Canada and there's very little of it left. It's a critical and fundamental element of our biodiversity," said Hebda.

The provincial government seems to agree. In 1993, the environment ministry released a report on the Garry oak ecosystem listing it as "important" and in "a highly endangered condition." Yet the NDP didn't act to slow the development of the new Costco at the privately owned Langford sight.

Sol Kinnis, an instrumental activist in recent protests, wanted environment minister Cathy McGregor to acknowledge this discrepancy when she and Angus Morton occupied the minister's office in June.

Bobby Arbess gives his message to the media.
Martlet photo by Darren Stewart

"We're pushing for endangered species legislation and to get the province to recognize this need—a need for specific legislation to protect the Garry oak ecosystem," said Kinnis.

"But McGregor adamantly refused to do anything, saying that the municipalities have been given the tools to protect endangered species. And she didn't want to infringe on the rights of private citizens," said Kinnis.

McGregor declined an interview with *the Martlet*.

"We're letting Costco control us, our communities say they don't want Costco," said activist Sonya McRae, one of five women who chained herself to logging equipment at the development site in May. "We should have made a precedent for other corporations. Without legislation we won't have a leg to stand on when other corporations approach us."

Outside the Legislature, protesters rallied with music, speeches, and a 15-foot home-made Costco statue, complete with sharp teeth and arms meant for gobbling communities and small local business. The protest was addressed by Joan Russow, leader of the Green Party, and Saul Arbess, president of the local chapter of the Council of Canadians.

McRae, Earl Heneke and Arye Burlet were escorted out of the Legislature for distributing pamphlets in the House while it was in session.

Heneke and Burlet were given over to the custody of the Victoria Police but were released without being charged. McRae calls her own and her friends' civil disobedience a "last resort".

"We had the innocent notion that we could stop all of this from happening," said McRae. "But it's still just us fighting against a multinational from the States."

Costco facts

Number of stores:	292
Profit last year:	$21.48 billion
Cardholders:	27 million

Garry oak facts

Indigenous habitats:	1
Life span:	400 years
Size:	up to 40 metres

The Langford site is cleared and the damage done—the construction crews are even blasting away the topsoil to make way for the megastore. But Costco hasn't seen the last of McRae and other concerned protesters.

"Costco can be sure they'll see us on their opening day. We'll be out in full force," said McRae.

Clark announces new work-for-tuition program

by Kris Anderson
the SFU Peak

(CUP)—Premier Glen Clark has announced a provincial pilot program that will provide students with the opportunity to gain credit toward tuition fees while doing volunteer work.

Students will have an opportunity to gain credit toward tuition fees while doing volunteer work.

The program, which is called Youth Community Action, is limited to 1,000 youth aged 15-24 and runs from June 1998 until June 30, 1999.

Young people are expected to do a minimum of 100 hours to a maximum 300 hours of community service to be granted $8 towards tuition for every hour of service they provide.

In an interview with *the SFU Peak*, Clark said that his government is "trying to find ways to open up more access to post-secondary education."

However, the program is that it doesn't provide opportunities for young people who are in the greatest need—those who cannot afford the time required for the volunteer work, said Maura Parte, B.C. Chair of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Clark said that if this were the government's only program that criticism might be valid, but that it is just one of several programs recently launched as part of the Youth Options B.C. initiative.

"This program isn't linked to low income or high income," said Clark. He added that people could participate in the program while also working at part-time jobs.

The program will be administered through non-profit host agencies which will choose applicants and place them with a project sponsor. Clark said that host agencies have a responsibility to give priority to "genuine non-profits."

Volunteer Victoria is acting as a host agency for the program.

Clark said there has already been great demand from citizens and community organizations to participate in the program.

However, he is not sure if the demand reflects high unemployment or a huge need for volunteers.

Clark admitted that he was a bit worried about the disparity that might be created by non-paid volunteers working with young people who are earning tuition credits .

More rallies on the way

by Oliver Kuehn

Well over 15,000 people are expected to attend an anti-racism rally in Surrey, which will be on June 28th, according to CARE (Communities Against Racism and Extremism.

"Surrey will not allow white supremacy and fascism to exist in our communities"

CARE was created in response to the brutal beating death of Nirmal Singh Gill, caretaker of a local Sikh temple.

The group also came together to draw attention to the recent rash of violent racist incidents in B.C. and the spread of hate groups.

There have been a number of violent racist incidents occurring in the lower mainland this year. Several black men were recently chased out of the Ivanhoe Hotel, a bar in Vancouver, by men wielding baseball bats.

A May 29 racially motivated attack on 16 Filipino, Fijian and black campers at Cat Lake near Squamish left one victim with serious facial injuries. Four more victims went to hospital.

The message of the June rally is that "The community of Surrey, the community of neighbours, and the community of BC will not allow white supremacy and fascism to exist," according to Nindy Nann, an organizer.

Members of the CARE committee and others are sidewalk chalking and leafletting near the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery to advertise the rally.

"Communities must come together, through the strength of our numbers, to show that racism and fascism will be swept into the dustbin of history and that no-one has the 'right' to meet and spew racist filth," said CARE committee member Tony Tracy.

"Hopefully, the June 28th march and rally in Surrey will leave behind a legacy of anti-racist organizing which will carry on."

The Surrey rally will be focussed on the broader issues than a youth rally held recently in Squamish.

Several members of CARE, who attended the Squamish rally, were shocked to find that the Filipino community boycotted the rally.

"They felt it was going to be a whitewash of the issues of racism," he said.

He added that placards in the crowd were sponsored by local businesses such as truck service outlets and hair salons, that bore slogans like "Squamish youth—keep on truckin' "and "Our youth—a cut above the rest".

"There were no speakers of colour" added Tracy, despite a sizable contingent of Native people at the rally.

Hunter loses business license

by Dave Ovans

Dissatisfied with a judge's verdict, Chief Constable Doug Richardson took the law into his own hands earlier this month when he petitioned Victoria city councillors not to renew local pot activist Ian Hunter's business license. And on June 11th, Victoria's police chief succeeded in shutting Richardson down.

Hunter was convicted on marijuana-related charges earlier this month when a plainclothes officer bought marijuana from an employee at his business, Sacred Herb: The Hemp Shop.

Hunter is currently appealing the original verdict, which resulted in a total fine of $500. However, Richardson's action sets a precedent for the city, as it marks the first time the police have directly intervened when they feel a judge's penalty was not severe enough.

Council, forced to decide whether or not to punish Hunter for his vocal anti-prohibitionist views as suggested by Richardson, voted against renewing the license. "It means that I'm no longer a businessman, but a full-time political activist," said Hunter, who plans on reapplying for a license in three months.

Sacred Herb is now owned and operated by Total Hemp Corporation.

Campus corporatization continues: UVSS

by Mary Vallis

Just when students' budgets couldn't get any tighter—and their debt loads any larger—the University of Victoria Students Society (UVSS) is signing a contract that may make credit cards even more accessible to students.

At the June 21 board meeting, the UVSS passed a motion to become partners with the Alumni Association in a five-year credit card affinity program.

The deal will give MBNA, the credit card company, exclusivity rights—meaning they will be the only credit card vendors recruiting student membership in the student union building next fall.

The deal also means the UVSS will make money off of every credit card purchase made by a cardholder.

"[The deal] is a good way to make money off other people without doing a lot of work," said director of academics Anita Zaenker as the board discussed the motion.

The UVSS will be paid a fee for each new membership, as well as for each each credit card transaction made by a cardholder. The deal also includes a $7,500 signing bonus.

Finance director Morgan Stewart expects the deal to bring in $9,000 in revenue for the UVSS in the contract's first year.

Stewart also said the deal does not encourage students to go into greater debt, but offers them a chance to develop a good credit rating instead.

Stewart hinted the contract is only a taste of corporate partnerships to come. While he said other deals-in-progress are still confidential, he expects another deal will be revealed at the next UVSS meeting on July 6.

"I think people in this society need to have access to purchasing," said Stewart. "Student incomes are at a level where credit is a good thing to have."

Although Stewart doesn't know the specifics of the deal, debate on the motion was minimal. Stewart said about half the board members at the meeting already knew about the deal.

"I was actually hoping for more of a discussion," Stewart said.

John Fitterer, business operations manager for the UVSS, negotiated the deal with MBNA, but is currently on leave and not available for comment. Stewart said the deal will not be signed until Fitterer returns in early July.

Membership for the new card will be targeted at Alumni members and UVic students—a market that is potentially 57,000 consumers strong.

Members of the Alumni Association, many of whom currently hold a Bank of Montreal affinity card, will have the option of switching to the new card.

MBNA is a private, American-owned company. Don Jones of the Alumni Association said the deal is still in final negotiations.

UVic toddlers get new home

by Nick Bradley

Four years after realizing the need for increased child care facilities on campus, UVic is preparing for the construction of a new infant and toddler care centre.

UVic's Board of Governors approved a location for a new child care centre this spring.

With the university's backing, Child Care Services (CCS) launched an ambitious fund-raising campaign to raise the necessary $828,000.

David Clode, Associate Director of Student and Ancillary Services, said a 1994 needs assessment study "indicated a large, unsatisfied demand for infant and toddler care.

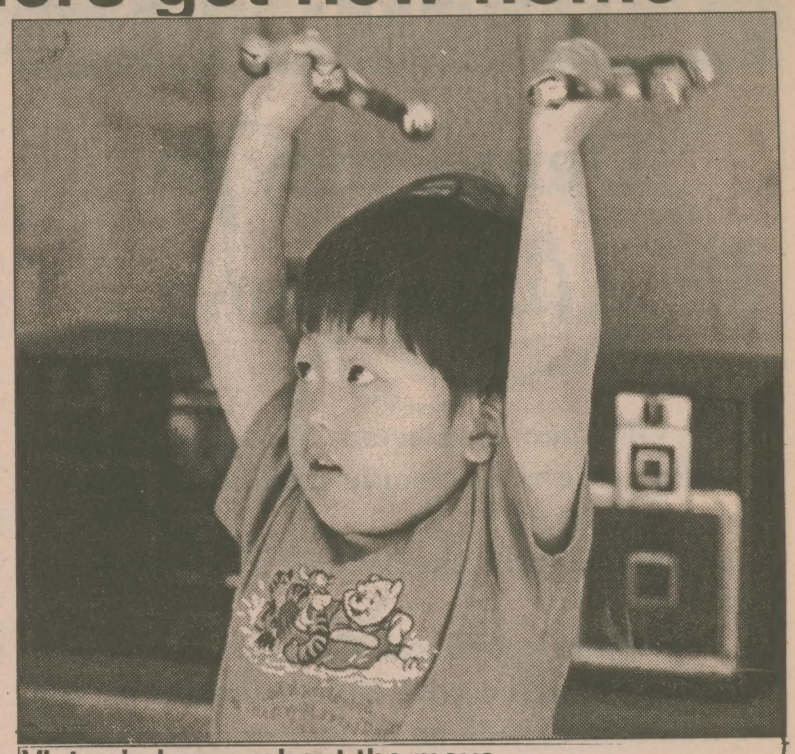
"There is a limited amount of this care in the city and we have long known there is a need for this service," said Clode.

Campus focus groups established in 1995-96 indicated a fairly urgent need for new facilities, said Birgit Castledine of the UVic Development Office. She said the lack of infant care in Greater Victoria is "a huge problem."

The facility will be built on Lam Circle, near existing student housing facilities.

CCS currently provides care for children between 18 months and 12 years old, including 16 toddlers. The new facility will accommodate nine to 12 infants and 12 toddlers.

In comparison, UBC Child Care Services has 68 spaces, including 12 for infants and toddlers. Simon Fraser University offers a total of 171 spaces.



Victor is happy about the move.

Martlet photo by Rachel Kiers

An original plan to renovate University House 2 for the new UVic facility was scrapped because of the cost of removing asbestos from the site.

UVic administration is enthusiastic about the new facility.

Despite the number of requests for funding it receives, the university named the proposed child care centre one of the top three approved projects for fund-raising on campus.

"To get to the top and get clearance to go forward requires the senior administration to be committed," said Clode.

The UVic Students' Society contributed just over $20,000 to the fund. Finance director Morgan Stewart said the donation is equal to the amount left over in the operating surplus from the child care facilities' ownership was transferred from the Students' Society to the university.

The UVSS owned and operated the daycare between 1969 and 1993.

Castledine said that the fundraising team asked internal sources to "get behind this project—it's really a good one." In response, the Graduate Students' Society, the Alumni Association, and the Faculty Association have all pledged their support.

UVic recently applied to B.C.'s children's ministry for additional funding. Under the Ministry's facilities and equipment grant program, the province will pay 50 per cent of the costs of new centres once the other half is in place.

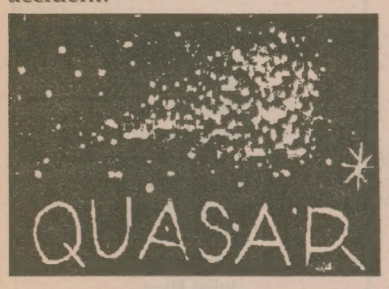
CCS hopes to hear about their application by August.

UVic prof sees the light

by Gilberto Talero

A team of astronomers that includes Dr. Geraint Lewis, a professor with UVic's physics and astronomy department, recently discovered an object brighter than any other previously observed in the universe.

The light source, known as a quasar, was found entirely by accident.



"It was actually a serendipitous discovery, as the best discoveries often are," said Lewis.

Lewis and colleagues Michael Irwin of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, Rodrigo Ibata of the European Southern Observatory and Edward Totten of Queen's University in Belfast, were searching for carbon-rich stars just outside the Milky Way when they noticed a star that shone as bright as carbon stars, but seemed to be many light years farther away.

A team member identified the light as an ultra-luminous quasar with a special analysis and a telescope in the Canary Islands. Quasars are the brightest objects in the universe, but Lewis's quasar is 10 times brighter than the previously brightest object in the universe—another quasar discovered in 1991.

The newly discovered quasar is more than four million billion times brighter than the sun, and outshines the brightest known galaxy 100 times.

"The question is, how can you feed in enough matter to generate enough energy to make this thing glow so brightly?" said Lewis.

The quasar is approximately 11 billion light years away from the Earth, and the light observed by Lewis has been traveling since the universe was in its early stages of formation.

Further observations will be made from the Hubble Space Telescope and other locations to determine if some of the observed brightness is caused by gravitational lensing, an effect that causes image distortion due to gravity from a galaxy or a black hole.

These observations will shed light on the source of this phenomenal energy output and may give astronomers clues to the history of our own galaxy.

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EDITORIAL

Democracy in (in)action

Well, OK, then. Democracy. The people's government, where the people make decisions on their own behalf.

The people rule themselves. Sounds good, right?

A lotta damn people call Canada a democracy. Whether we agree with this statement or not, it's true that Canadians do vote on their leadership (and have the right to recall those leaders when they commit fraud). Canadians do have the right to free speech, and Canadians do have the right to a 40-hour work week.

For the sake of outward appearances, let's be nice. Let's call Canada a democracy for now.

One of the not-so-nice elements of a democracy is accepting people's views, and their right to express those views, even if those people are white supremacists or Holocaust deniers.

Between the Paul Reitsma scandal/recall campaign and the Canadian Free Speech League's meeting at the Juan de Fuca public library, June has been a crash-course in how frustrating this whole notion of democracy can be.

Some of us at *the Martlet* respect a racists' right to hate perfectly wonderful human beings. In fact, we'll even return the favour and hate the racists right back. But racists have just as much right to spew their views as anyone else.

But that doesn't mean that racist-haters are out of luck. June's anti-racism rally in front of the library proves that point—Doug Christie cancelled the latter half of the Canadian Free Speech League's meeting after the protest. Could it be that the protester's strength in numbers scared him off?

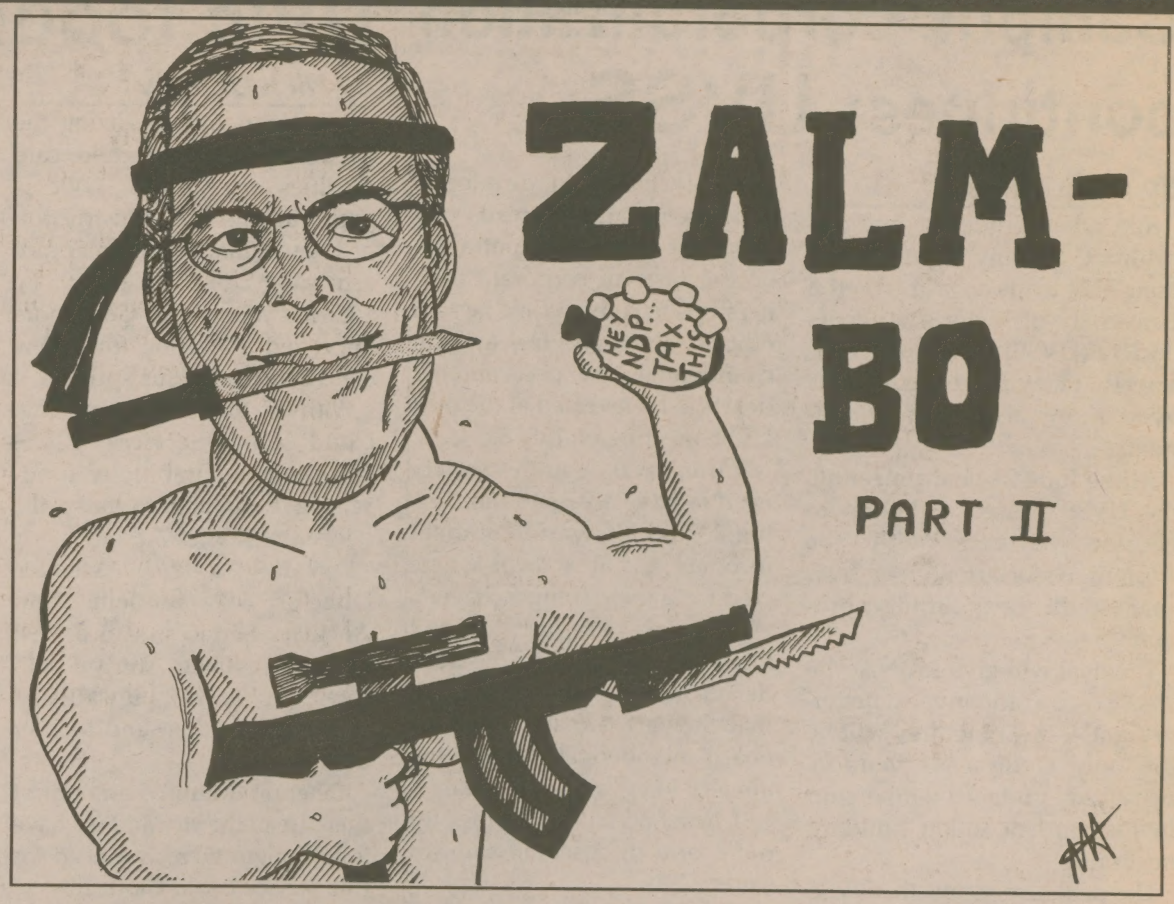
The whole affair just goes to show that such protests can be successful, and that we can make our voices heard even louder than theirs.

The Reitsma affair proves the point yet again. Reistma *finally* resigned his seat in the Legislature as the result of public pressure. When his community rallied against him, and it finally got through his thick skull that he was going to be recalled—really, actually recalled!—he stepped down.

Man, this democracy concept makes life complicated, doesn't it? Guess that's the price you pay for (so-called) freedom. But notice that in both cases it took vocal opposition from the community to change things.

So here's the message: make your voice heard, whether it be in opposition to someone else's message, or be it a completely independent thought of your own. And expect criticism. And take that criticism in stride (Zeb). ❋

Editorial topics are decided upon by staff at editorial meetings and are written by one or more staff members. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of all staff.



LETTERS

Editors,

The decision by Langford Council to approve the Costco development at Millstream Road, near the junction of the Island Highway, raises vital questions.

The Douglas fir/Garry oak habitat is in a sustainable crisis, with now less than 1% left. The provincial Ministry of Environment is currently mapping and recording these critically endangered areas and biologist Adolf Cecka has identified 40 endangered species within this ecosystem. The Provincial government's concern even led the Department of Transportation and Highways to plant 350 additional Garry oaks in and around the Millstream interchange, last September, 'to promote the project's (Vancouver Island Highway) protection and enhancement of indigenous Garry Oak habitat.'

Canadians are appalled at the loss of biodiversity throughout the world, the Amazon rain forest immediately springs to mind, so it is extremely disturbing to see our neighbours in Langford, led by their mayor, Stew Young, of 'I don't know a deciduous tree from a conifer' fame, legitimize local biodiversity destruction without, at the very least, regional public input.

N.D.P. MLA, Rick Kaspar supports the Costco development because he myopically sees immediate jobs and taxes for Langford, whereas a person of discernment would realize that a development which demands a minimum of 600 parking spaces, will generate millions of dollars in purchases from a foreign company (Costco is based in the U.S.), regionally owned and operated businesses will suffer, not only in gross sales, but also in employment as they'll layoff staff to stay in business, meanwhile Costco's profits will be exported, not re-circulated within the region.

Costco developer, Jack Nelson, rejected an alternate Can West site, claiming that rooftop parking was too expensive, even though this would have been a development within the parameters of Langford's Official Community Plan, which the Millstream development is not.

Costco held out for, and was rewarded with an astounding subsidy from the taxpayers of British Columbia, who have supplied a 90 km/h superhighway and immediate highway access, to ensure that it is very easy for British Columbians to add to Costco's profitability.

This approval by Langford Council is distressing but only strengthens my resolve to demand a moratorium on any further development at this site until regional impact studies have been held.

—Chris Barner

Editors,

I think it's ironic that on the back page of the latest Martlet, BC1.COM advertises a special rate for students, when their discriminator access policies bar a large segment of the student population from using their service. According to paragraph 6 of their user agreement, on the Web at "http://bc1.com/policy.htm", they refuse to do business with customers under 18 years of age. Although I myself am over 18, I consider such policies to be indefensible. I do not use services with ageist access policies, nor recommend such services to my consulting clients. I've established a Web page of my own discussing this issue and comparing the policies of various providers in Victoria and elsewhere; you can find it by searching the Web on the keyword "nauthiz".

—Matthew Skala

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the Martlet

50 years of

Quote of the Week:

"That would take some fortitude on your part, and I'm not sure what level of journalism the Martlet is into."
—Zeb King on the Martlet's decision not to follow up on his story.

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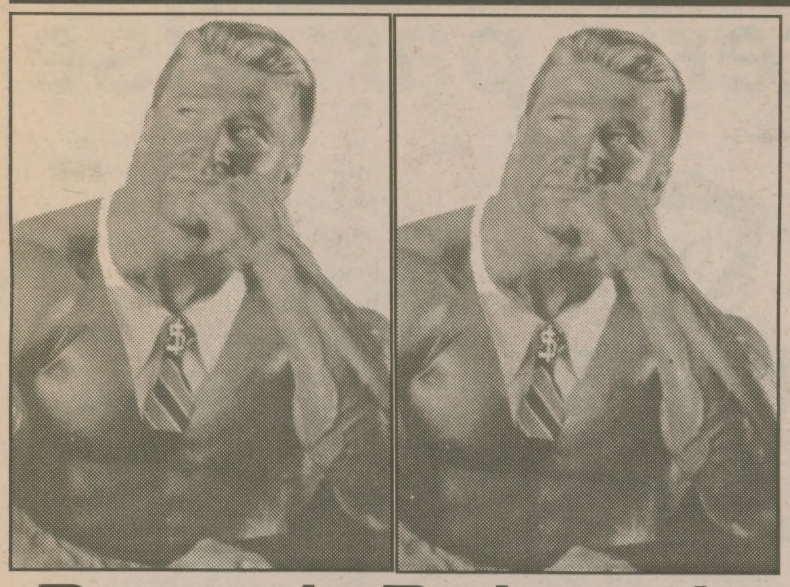


Beatty's Bulworth a house of mirrors

by Jen Tindall

Bulworth is a Hollywood film, but surprisingly, it is also a social commentary.

Warren Beatty, a rich white man of the establishment, wrote, starred, produced and directed this anti-establishment film.

Jay Billinger Bulworth, the character played by Beatty, is both a thinly-disguised presidential figurehead and a caring, African-American, culture-appropriating, insane instigator of social change.

TA DA! *Bulworth* is a house of mirrors.

This film is a scandal, because Bulworth, a senator seeking re-election, hits rock bottom. He can no longer live with his conscience so he arranges for his own assassination.

With only a little time left to live, Bulworth starts telling the truth as he sees it.

He peels back the layers of politics to bare the ugly intestines of government, media and race. Corporations are the last word on U.S. policy; T.V screens are more real to the masses than flesh; white rich men in the offices in Washington don't care about ghetto children.

Yes Warren, yes—but haven't we heard this before?

According to Peter Travers of Rolling Stone, who compares *Bulworth* to the sight of a high-wire artist working without a net, "Warren Beatty is playing with fire here." The political-incorrectness of the film might be the "fire" bit—in one scene Bulworth offers an answer to all the bigotry of the world: "Racial deconstruction...we'll all keep fucking until we're the same colour." And it's annoying that Bulworth is a palpable and cohesive narrative, part non-fiction, part fable.

However, the film has some great laughs too. In one scene, Bulworth asks a bunch of Hollywood backers how they can make lousy movies with so much money.

The irony of this is twofold: it reflects on Beatty's own agenda in Hollywood and critiques that agenda at the same time.

It's hard to be mainstream and have people take you seriously as an artist when you're not starving. Beatty has hit a nerve: he's touched the pulse of society's distrust of those who "have" and the disparity between them and the "have-nots."

But at the same time these are not new ideas, it is only new that the mainstream media is acknowledging the problems.

Kurt Cobain once appeared on the cover of Rolling Stone with a T-shirt which read "Corporate magazines still suck." Just by saying "the truth" doesn't exclude you from it.

How anti, how alternative, can you be as a participant in the mainstream movie industry? ❋

It's hard to be mainstream and have people take you seriously as an artist when you're not starving.

Victoria "buzzing" with new art

by Bessie Chow

There's an infestation at Starfish Glassworks!

But put away the Raid, because except for Charlotte — a pet tarantula, you won't find any offending arthopods at Victoria's premier glass art gallery.

On the contrary, those bright, colorful, eccentric little creatures are part of an exciting new art exhibit.

The bugs are the creation of local artists Lisa Samphire, Morna Tudor, Louise Duthie, Miyuki Shinkai, Robert Alan, Jim Norton, Joy Jubenvill, and Jodi Strom.

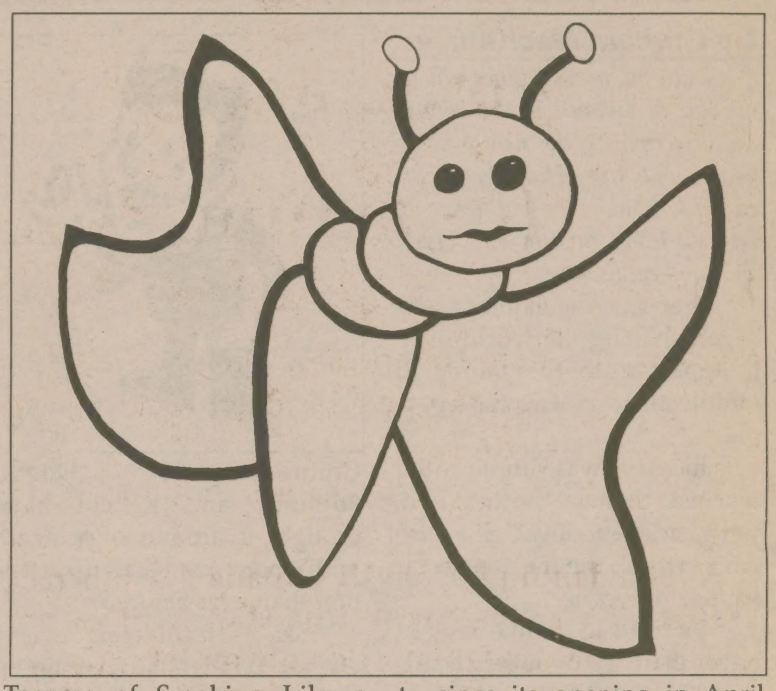
Working with glass, paint, and temperatures that not even a tropical mosquito would appreciate, they've put together an exhibit that will definitely have your eyes bugging out of their sockets.

This is the gallery's second exhibition of the year- there are four shows annually, although the displays are regularly changed every two weeks.

The gallery is just entering its second year in Victoria.

"It's been a lot of fun," said Lisa Samphire, one of the artists and co-founders of the gallery.

Julie Higginson and Trish Tacoma of Smoking Lily, a small screenprinting boutique, whose designs are based on a bug theme, spruced up the atmosphere with funky bug-art banners and scarves.



The Victoria Bug Zoo set up a creepy window display, including Charlotte.

The show opened on June 4 with intoxicating bug-named martinis from Süze Lounge and Restaurant.

"There's a real sense of community here," said Samphire.

The gallery has been well-received by the local community since its opening in April 1997.

Samphire co-founded the gallery at its downtown Yates Street location with Gary Bolt and Tudor.

Their objective is to demonstrate different techniques of working with glass.

"Glass-blowing is only a very small part of a whole series of other glass art techniques," said Duthis.

Glass-blowing demonstrations are held Wednesday through Sunday. ❋

Stroll not quite what it seems

At Home On the Stroll: My Twenty Years as a Prostitute in Canada
by Alexandra Highcrest
Vintage Canada

by Käthe Lemon

Alexandra Highcrest has led a fascinating life.

Born as a male in Sudbury, Ontario, Highcrest moved to Toronto in 1972 to go to university, and became a prostitute soon after his arrival. Later he went through "transition" and eventually had surgery to become a female.

Since the 1980's, Highcrest has been one of Canada's most vocal spokespersons for prostitutes' rights, and has written many articles on prostitution and related issues for Canadian publications. Unfortunately, *At Home on the Stroll* is not nearly as interesting as its author's life appears to have been.

Although listed as an autobiography, *At Home on the Stroll* is not written in chronological order, but is organized into thematic chapters. The book explores the issues surrounding prostitution itself more than the life of the author.

The book focuses heavily on information, giving views from both supporters and opponents of prostitution, as well as statistics and facts about the Canadian legal system. The often humorous anecdotes and stories about Highcrest's life, however, make all of the figures a little easier to digest.

If there was a 'Prostitution 100' course, you can bet this would be on the reading list: *At Home on the Stroll* is a good book for researching prostitution in Canada, but doesn't do a good job of revealing its author's personality.

If you just want to read it for enjoyment, or to find out about Highcrest, *At Home on the Stroll* is choppy, confusing and at times boring.

The book is a veritable cornucopia of cliches, and all the numbers can be overwhelmingly boring.

What saves the book is Highcrest's ability to attract sympathy—and that's not easy for a transsexual.

To make a self-described 200-pound six foot lesbian ex-hooker seem like someone you could be friends with is a literary feat worthy of praise.

Highcrest is never trashy. She never brought children into the trade, or became addicted to drugs; she even turned down a chance to be on Geraldo.

Like most everyone else, she does buy groceries, she has a cat and she pays taxes.

By revealing herself to have things in common with the reader, Highcrest demonstrates that prostitutes are not that different, they are not immoral, and they are here to stay.

To Highcrest prostitution is just a job, a job that should be decriminalized. ❋

To make a self-described 200-pound six foot lesbian ex-hooker seem like someone you could be friends with is worthy of praise.

Billy Bragg to play UVic in August

by Laura Williams

Hold onto your hats, Billy Bragg is coming to town!

Bragg, music's most prominent socialist, has agreed to perform at a benefit concert at UVic during the August long weekend for less than half his regular rate.

The concert, which will be organized by the University of Victoria Students Society (UVSS) will honour Canada's International Brigades.

Proceeds from the concert will be donated to an existing fund raised by labour and social justice movements in Canada.

The fund will eventually be used to erect a statue on the Legislature grounds to honour the Brigades.

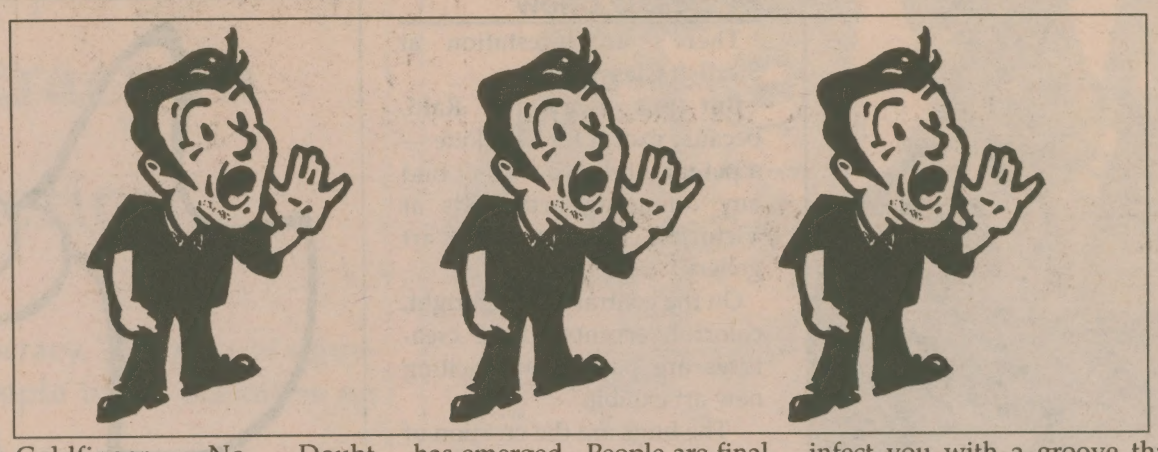
Ticket prices for the show have not been confirmed. ❋

Write arts for the Martlet. You'll be glad you did. So very glad. This guy is.

Victoria is a skankster's paradise

By Graham MacKenzie

Ska.(n.) a form of dance music, popular in Jamaica in the 1960's, characterized by the use of saxophones and brass, a heavily accented offbeat, and the influence of New Orleans rhythm and blues, jazz, and calypso.



After shaking Jamaica, ska began shaking the world over. It appealed to the minds of middle and working class people.

Its message was simple and it reached them: brotherhood, unity, and equality. Ska also gave birth to the mega popular sounds of reggae.

Ska music, unlike reggae, never had a commercial success like Bob Marley, so it has not received the exposure it deserves. Ska popularity has come in waves, first in the sixties, then the late seventies and early eighties, and now in the late nineties. Such bands as the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Goldfinger, No Doubt, Sublime, and Rancid have brought it around once again with more mainstream attention than ever before.

Ska is resurfacing everywhere. Bands that were big in the second wave like the Specials and Madness are regrouping, touring, and recording new albums.

Ska has also become a staple of the hugely popular "Warped" tour.

The ska underground scene has emerged. People are finally starting to recognize what the word "ska" means.

Vancouver Island now has a festival dedicated to ska, happening every summer.

Bands from all over Canada play at this festival. This year Vancouver Island Skafest takes place on July 5 at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

Nine bands will be there to infect you with a groove that will keep you dancing.

Ska can be heard weekly on UVic's CFUV radio station on Skankster's Paradise. If you haven't heard ska, or if you like dancing, check out the sound, because it is something that shouldn't be missed.

Ska is alive and well in Canada, nurtured by Stomp Records based in Quebec. The label releases its annual *All Skanadian* club disc to give much needed exposure to unknown ska enthusiasts.

In Victoria, the music scene began engaging the sound with bands like the Bombasts playing regularly at Steamers. Victoria's much-loved ska pioneers, the now-defunct Pressure Cooker, are probably the ones to credit for the kick-off.

More bands are picking up the beat as well, including A Serious Mistake, the Buckshot Allstars, Cause for Reason, and Flicker Pin.

Ska has attached itself to other forms of music as well, creating hybrids like ska punk, ska core, ska disco.

So why do people like it? Because it moves you, the beat makes you dance, it is simply straightforward fun.

Pope to sing at Pride Week

by John W. McFetrick

Carole Pope, ex-singer for Juno award-winning group Rough Trade, is the featured performer at this year's Pride Week Festival.

Pope, who now lives in Los Angeles, will be plucked from her home in the fashionable suburbs and whisked to Victoria for our city's annual event, which will to be held June 28th through July 5th.

The event is a culmination of events that span over the week which includes dances, a tattoo-a-thon, Ernie's Erotic Art Show and Sale, a Miss Gay Vancouver Island contest, drag balls as well as workshops on self defence, writer's groups, Manhunt '98, sponsored by the Men's Outreach Project, and Yoga instruction.

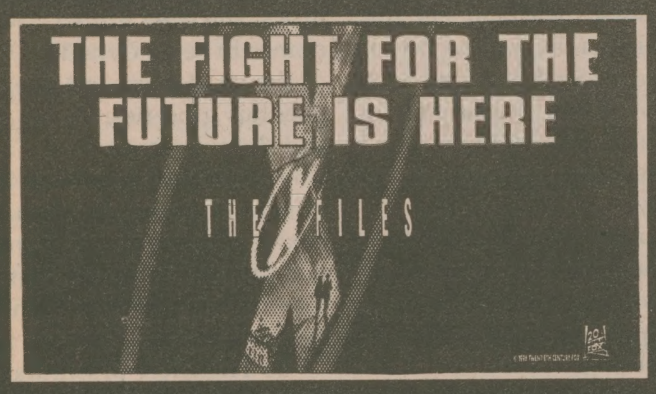
There will also be an art show featuring the Lesbian Art Collective and films at UVic's Cinecenta.

The week-long festival is a celebration of diversity. "Pride is about all the various communities coming together to express who we are, and to let the community at large know that we exist," said Catherine Snowdon, Pride Society Board Director.

Last year, over two thousand people took part in the week's festivities, which included the fabulous Pride Parade.

The parade, which begins at the corner of Pandora and Government every year, winds its way by the majestic Empress Hotel, heads past the Legislature (where, no doubt, many participants will salute Queen Victoria's statue) and concludes at Fisherman's Wharf Park, where Pope is to perform.

X-Files NOW PLAYING



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The mind is a scary thing to use

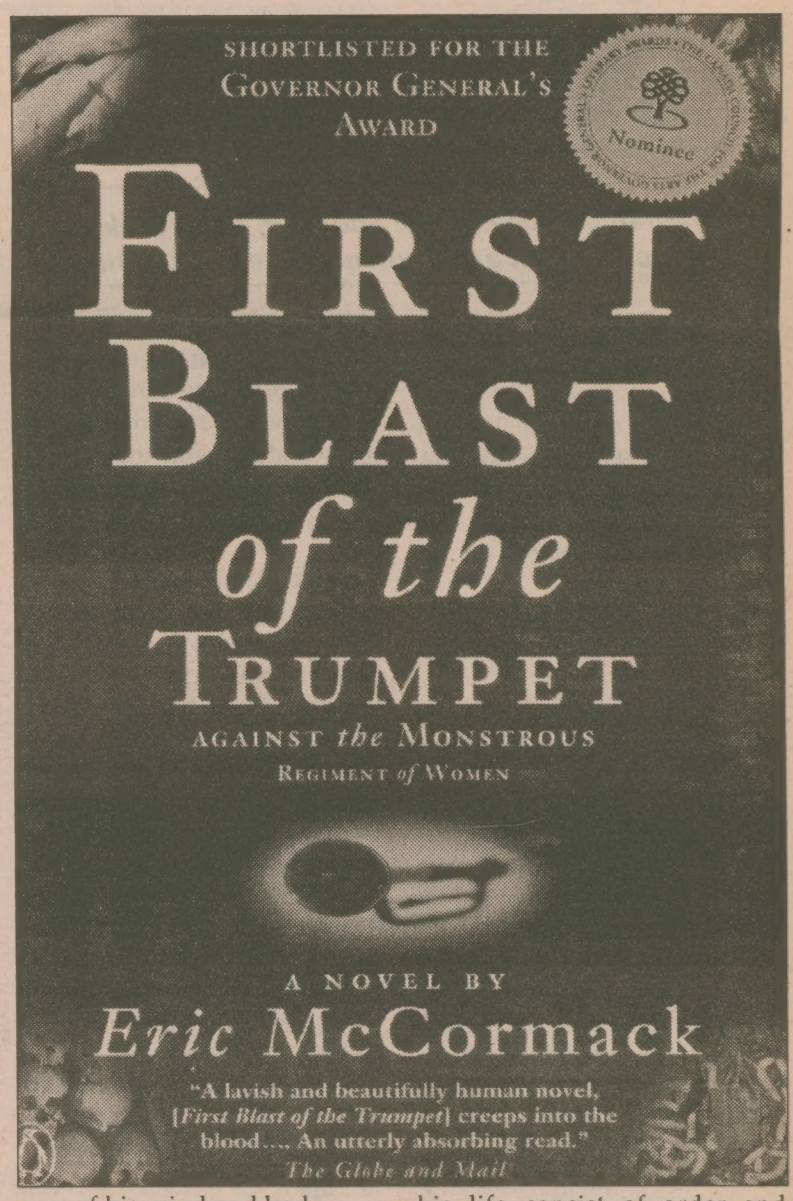
First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women
Eric McCormack
Penguin Books

by Crystal Mutter

First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women is an all-encompassing novel. It will draw you into its darkness, keeping you up page-turning night after night. Eric McCormack is a straightforward, piercing writer.

Andrew ultimately loses the battle with his mind as the black spot penetrates him.

The book is completely haunting, but is not without purpose. As McCormack states in his opening sentence: "No book's worth reading that doesn't offer some information of practical use to the reader." And it was with this sweeping declaration that I became drawn into the odd, nightmarish circumstances surrounding the life of Andrew Halfnight.


SHORTLISTED FOR THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD
Nominee
FIRST BLAST of the TRUMPET
AGAINST the MONSTROUS REGIMENT of WOMEN
A NOVEL BY
Eric McCormack
"A lavish and beautifully human novel, [First Blast of the Trumpet] creeps into the blood.... An utterly absorbing read."
The Globe and Mail

The book is completely haunting, but it is not without purpose.

Andrew's curse begins when he is born and it follows him, unyielding, throughout the book.

His dreams slowly pervade his soul until a dark spot, or mote, overrides the events of his life.

Andrew's bored outlook makes us as readers think that the author has failed us by offering limited characterization.

However, the dullness of Andrew's life actually serves to accentuate the disconnectedness of his mind and body.

His lack of personality and self-imposed alienation from society is due to his lack of caring about his future and what happens to him.

At a critical point in the novel, Andrew creates a double self as a coping mechanism, separating his mind from his body.

If he cannot be in control of both, he will at least dominate one faculty.

His body, contrary to his mind, becomes his own through rigid scheduling, meaningless sex, and drugs.

He desperately tries to have his life consist of order and lowly tasks , in the hope of slackening his overactive overactive brain.

In contrast, the protagonist's mind has no basis in reality. The mind becomes an evil thing. It attempts to overcome Andrew with its dark visions of the past.

Andrew ultimately loses the battle with his mind as the black spot penetrates him.

In the end he is faced with the decision of whether to face his fears or to continue on in his life of horrors.

If there is one thing Andrew Halfnight realizes after his journey, it is that the mind is its own place, and in itself can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of Heaven...

BIKETORIA

June brings out the bikes in the Garden City.

Victoria hosted the World Cup of Track Cycling at the Juan De Fuca Velodrome May 28-30 this year. Cyclists use the World Cup to qualify for the World Championships, and this was the first ever such event to be held in Canada. The event will return to Victoria in 1999 and 2000.

A great moment for the crowd was local boy Brian Walton's win in the men's points race.

The the same weekend, the annual Bastion Square Grand Prix of Cycling was held in the heart of downtown. There event included a kid's relay and a commuter challenge, but the races most spectators came to see were the men's and women's elite races. Both categories had entrants from all over the world, as many cyclists in town for the World Cup races chose to enter the Bastion Square event.

June 1-7 was Bike-to-Work week, an annual event that encourages people to commute by bicycle to work.

June 5th saw a critical mass ride downtown, an event held the first Friday of every month.

During a critical mass, bicyclists block the street and move slowly, to draw attention to themselves.

Martlet photos by Holland Gidney

Sports Shorts

CIAU Scholarship Motion Defeated

Athletes entering university for the first time will not be eligible for scholarships rewarding their previous athletic performance.

At the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union's annual general meeting June 19 and 20 in Collingwood, Ontario, a motion to introduce athletic awards for entering students was defeated.

The Canada West University Athletic Association, of which the UVic is a member, had been pushing for the motion because it feels that scholarships will be an incentive to promising young Canadian athletes to attend Canadian schools.

Entrance scholarships can be awarded to student athletes if they are based on their academic performance.

Vikes Soccer Player Goes Pro

A UVic midfielder will be playing soccer in Switzerland after signing a contract with one of the country's professional teams.

Daniel Imhoff, a 1997-98 Canada West All-Star, will be playing for FC Wil in the Swiss National B League after signing a 12-month contract with the team.

Imhoff will receive a base salary of $24,000, plus incentives associated with how well the team does during the season. Swiss relatives helped set up his try-out with the team.

FC Wil's season begins in mid-July.

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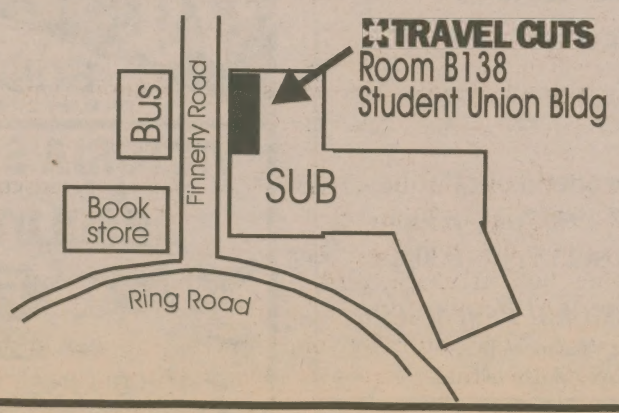

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on campus

Events

Blood donor clinics will be held on Tuesday, June 30th at the University of Victoria. Call 382-2213 for more info.

off campus

Events

James Bay Community Market: Every Saturday this summer, between 9 am and 3 pm, the corner of Menzies and Superior is transformed into an exciting market, featuring fresh, locally grown produce, plants and flowers, free-range eggs, handmade quality artworks and crafts, homemade foods, preserves and baked goods, entertainment and special events. July 4 market features a Holistic Health Fair, and July 25 is Kids Day, complete with petting zoo.

FINE ARTS '98! Vancouver Island's largest juried art show, Augst 1-9 at the Sooke Arena, 2168 Phillips Rd. Paintings, sculpture, photography and more. Call 642-6351 for info.

5th Annual Garden Faire and Music Fest at Everlasting Summer Dried Flower and Herb Farm, 6 km from Fulford Ferry on Salt Spring. Call 250-553-9418 for info.

PRIDE, tested and true.

Family Fun Day: Petting zoo, dunk tank, jumping castle, Daisy the Cow, magician and more! Hosted by the Military Family Resource Centre and Personnel Support Programs. Sunday, July 26th, 11a.m.-3p.m. Call 391-4214/363-4296 for info!

"Time Out" Sports Card show at the Ukranian Cultural Centre, 3277 Douglas Street, on July 5th from 10-4. Call Harvey at 727-3422.

classifieds

Volunteers

Interested in global issues and education? **Come volunteer at the VIDEA library**, which houses the largest collection of current resources on development education issues in Victoria. VIDEA needs a library deskperson this September for four hours per week and summer orientation training is provided. Call Zoe at 385-2333 for more info, or drop by VIDEA at 1921 Fernwood Road.

Volunteers are needed to assist a person with a disability to participate in a recreation or leisure pursuit. If you are able to make a commitment of 2 to 4 hours per week, or are interested in finding out more, call Recreation Integration Victoria at 477-6314.

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Hey You!

Upset about **Ginger Spice?** Mourners meeting July 11 Sub B666.

Hi Pancake. You're nice.

Hey Ger. Hey! Lookit me!

Hey Martleteers: great work this issue. Keep it up and we'll give you beer!....well...maybe.

Uh....hey Laura? Maybe you should come back later. The puters aren't working right now.

Hey Doug Christie! Nice phone, jerky.

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In June of '69
miss judy
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Kicked the bucket...
AND WITHIN 20 MINUTES NEW YORK DRAG QUEENS WERE PAINTED, DRESSED AND READY TO RIOT. ABOUT ONE MONTH LATER 3 BRAVE MEN (went 2 the moon to get rocks off and have sex (thats what I heard)
AND THEN 500,000 WHITE KIDS got together for vanilla sex, mud and Richie Havens blah blah blah...
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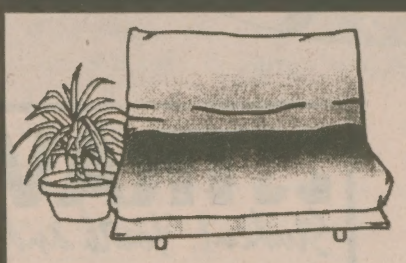

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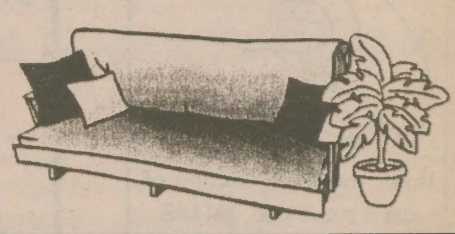

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